

[Home](#)
[About Us](#)
[Church Growth](#)
[Directory](#)
[Leadership](#)
[Ministry](#)
[New Church](#)
[News](#)
[TAP/PATHWAYS](#)[Donate](#)**News**[Breaking News](#)[Feature Focus](#)[Celebrate](#)[Conference News](#)[Local Church News](#)[Lifting Up...](#)[NEWS Archives](#)[Resources](#)**SECUCC eNewsletter**
**Sign up for SECUCC
Email Newsletter**

Southeast Conference FAQ's[Who is the SEC?](#)[Who is the UCC?](#)[How Do I Find a UCC Church?](#)[What Ministries are Available?](#)[Is Training Available?](#)YOU ARE HERE: [HOME](#) ► [NEWS](#)**A Word From Tim Downs - March 2013**

Dear Friends,

These are interesting days, for me personally, and for all of us as we continue this journey through Lenten reflections. I do not think it is too much of a stretch to connect this season of my own life as I work to bring a ministry to a close, and this liturgical season in which we contemplate another kind of transition, one having to do with our own mortality. As I write these words, they sound a little morose, and yet that is not how I feel either about Lent or my pending retirement.



We often associate Lent with spiritual disciplines: fasting, prayer, or often foregoing a particular pleasure or indulgence. I would rather consider Lent as a time of renewing trust. This is a season where we are invited to cease our striving for a bit, contemplate our limits and finitude, and recognize that our "ground of being," the source of meaning and truth, is trustworthy beyond all of our efforts, even perhaps in the face of death itself. Our God is a trustworthy presence, one whose constancy is continually reaffirmed throughout life's journey, whether we travel through joy or sorrow, sickness or health. We are not alone.

I recognize that my retirement will involve considerable change for me, a claiming or perhaps reclaiming of new priorities in my life, no doubt uncertainties, not to mention the inevitability of age and its "accumulation of diminishments." Nonetheless, through all my seasons, those past and those to come, God's offer is one of

constancy. This is, after all, the God who has in Jesus Christ come to share our "common lot, conquering sin and death, and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator."

Lenten blessings,
Tim Downs

Tim Downs

UCC News**UCC Newsroom**

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

[UCC minister offers progressive praise and worship music for download](#)

A United Church of Christ pastor in Chicago working on a liturgy of rock oriented worship music around themes of justice, peace and extravagant welcome is getting a lot of support for his project from ministerial colleagues around the denomination.



Latest News	Most Read Articles
LGBT Ministry and Advocacy in the UCC	Southeast Conference UCC (SEC)
Pathways- A Sojourners' Community	UCC History and Polity
Conference News - March 2013	Southeast Conference Campaign
Local Church News - March 2013	Steps to Planting a New Church
Lifting Up... March 2013	Global Theological Education

SECUCC CONTACTS	SECUCC RESOURCES	FAVORITE LINKS	EVENTS CALENDAR
<div>▶ Conference Minister</div> <div>▶ TAP Director</div> <div>▶ SEC Donations</div> <div>▶ Church Development</div> <div>▶ Communications Director</div>	<div>▶ Annual Meeting</div> <div>▶ Global Theological Education</div> <div>▶ Local Church News</div> <div>▶ SEC Churches</div> <div>▶ Seminars/Webinars</div>	<div>▶ Bridge 4 Faith</div> <div>▶ The Center for Progressive Renewal</div> <div>▶ United Church of Christ</div> <div>▶ Mission Insite</div> <div>▶ Resource Center</div>	<div>« < March 2013 > »</div> <div><div>S</div><div>M</div><div>T</div><div>W</div><div>T</div><div>F</div><div>S</div></div> <div><div>24</div><div>25</div><div>26</div><div>27</div><div>28</div><div>1</div><div>2</div></div> <div><div>3</div><div>4</div><div>5</div><div>6</div><div>7</div><div>8</div><div>9</div></div> <div><div>10</div><div>11</div><div>12</div><div>13</div><div>14</div><div>15</div><div>16</div></div> <div><div>17</div><div>18</div><div>19</div><div>20</div><div>21</div><div>22</div><div>23</div></div> <div><div>24</div><div>25</div><div>26</div><div>27</div><div>28</div><div>29</div><div>30</div></div> <div><div>31</div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>4</div><div>5</div><div>6</div></div>

[Steps to Planting a New Church](#)

[News](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Donate](#)